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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshiaki OKABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2176

Application No.: 09/725,765

Examiner: R. SINGH

Filed: November 30, 2000

Docket No.: 108001

For: DOCUMENT INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 14, 2006, Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application.

**I. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177111 A1 to Egendorf et al. (Egendorf) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,689 to Yanaka et al. (Yanaka) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,947 to Bengston. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a document integrated management apparatus that performs integrated management of plural documents stored in plural databases managed by controllers unique to the databases that includes, among other features, a linkage information management unit that stores and manages linkage information among documents stored in the